

### REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action of December 2, 2002. Claims 12 and 33-35 remain pending in the application. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 33 corresponds to the limitation of former claim 10, claim 34 corresponds to the limitation of former claim 11 and claim 35 corresponds to the limitation of former claim 13. Claim 12 is now a generic linking claim.

#### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

The 35 U.S.C. 112§ 2 rejection of claims 4, 5, 22 and 23 is now moot in light of their cancellation. The applicant expressly reserves the right to address this issue raised by the examiner in a supplemental remarks or a continuing application.

The 35 U.S.C. 112§ 1 rejection of claims 5 and 23 is moot in light of their cancellation. However, the applicant expressly reserves the right to address this issue raised by the examiner in a supplemental remarks or a continuing application.

#### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The applicant expressly reserves the right to address the 103(a) rejections raised by the Examiner for claims 4, 5, 22 and 23 in a supplemental remarks or a continuing application, which have been cancelled in order to expedite allowance of a particular aspect of the invention. The applicant also reserves the right to submit evidence supporting the non-obviousness, such as unexpected results of the subject matter of claims 9 and 10 or fully address the issue of obviousness in another amendment and remarks or a continuing application.

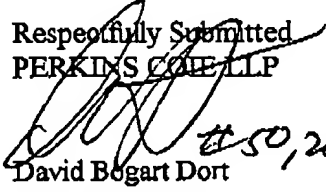
### CONCLUSION

The Applicant submits that the claims 12 and 33-35 which are pending in the Application, are now believed to be in condition for allowance. If there are any issues

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which prevent the immediate issuance of a Notice of Allowance the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant at the contacts listed below.

Respectfully Submitted  
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